**Field Experience Dos and Don’ts in Plain Terms**

**DO:**

* contact the teacher at school, not at home, unless the teacher asks you to
* introduce yourself as an NWFSC Teacher Education student
* have your badge visible at all times
* clarify the field experience expectation
* find out what is convenient for the teacher and schedule accordingly
* be on time
* call if you are sick or running late
* dress appropriately (No cleavage showing—front or back, nothing tight, torn, dirty, dragging the floor, see through, short, or otherwise eyebrow-raising. If you look like the students you are dressed inappropriately. You are the grownup here—the grownup who might be looking for a job in this school one day. Make a professional impression.)
* cover tattoos
* ladies--remove any pierced jewelry that is not in your lower earlobe
* gentlemen—remove all pierced jewelry, even if it’s in your lower earlobe
* learn and observe all campus rules and policies (there is NO SMOKING on or near a school campus—anywhere—ever—*not even in your car in the parking lot*)
* wear comfortable, professional shoes
* introduce yourself to the principal and thank her/him for the opportunity to learn in that school
* use textbook English—no slang, dialect or vernacular, especially with students
* remove your hat inside the building
* keep your mouth closed in the teacher’s lounge
* remember that the school is doing you a favor, not the other way around
* respect confidentiality—never, EVER repeat names or tell “school stories” to friends
* write thank you notes to the teacher and principal of the school after your field experience is over
* **remember you represent yourself and this institution—behave accordingly**

**DON’T:**

* wait until the last minute to schedule your hours
* expect the teacher to accommodate you if you do
* share details of your work schedule, babysitter woes, struggles with schoolwork load, health issues, or reality TV preferences
* complain that your assigned school is too long a drive
* name a teacher, student, or school in the text of your field experience journal
* post any identifying information about schools, students, or any aspect of your field experience on Facebook, Twitter or other social media
* arrive late, or not at all
* wear jeans--EVER
* accept full responsibility for a class with the teacher out of the room
* engage in gossip about school personnel, students, the school district, or any other topic
* judge, critique, or second-guess a teacher’s practice—observe and learn
* break the copier or laminating machine—you will be blackballed from the profession
* forget why you’re there—to learn!
* underestimate the network of professional relationships in this community—I WILL hear about your progress.
* be alarmed at the pace and level of constant activity that is public school. It’s more organized than it looks and there is a reason for everything you see and hear.